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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(OUR DOCKET NO. 639 P 393)

In re the Application of:)
David S. Utterberg)
Serial No. 10/062,570)
Filed: February 5, 2002)
For: BLOOD SET PRIMING METHOD)
AND APPARATUS)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

AUG - 9 2002

Dear Sir:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Please amend the following:

Under "Cross Reference to Related Application", second line, after
"August 23, 1999," please insert - - now U.S. Pat. No. 6,387,069, - -.

Please add the following claims:

23. The method of ending a process of extracorporeal blood treatment
using a blood-filled tubular set, said set comprising set tubing having a patient
connector on an end thereof in blood flow connection with a patient and a first
branch tube branching from said set tubing in connection with a source of
physiological solution, said first branch tube connecting with said set between ends
thereof, said first branch tube communicating in branching relation with a second

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connector capable of sealing connection with said patient connector;

said method comprising the steps of:

disconnecting the patient connector from the vascular system of the patient;

connecting the patient connector with the second connector to form a closed loop of tubing;

and passing said physiological solution from said source into said set tubing with flow through said second connector and said patient connector, to replace blood in said set tubing with said solution.

24. The method of claim 23 in which in said second connector is carried by further branch tubing, which further branch tubing connects with said branch tube in branching relation thereto.

25. The method of claim of 23 in which said tubular set has an end opposed to the patient connector, said opposed end being connected to a flow path leading to the vascular system of the patient, whereby, as blood is replaced by solution in said tubular set, said blood flows through the flow path back to the patient.

26. The method of claim 25 in which most of said flow of the solution passes through the second connector and patient connector.

27. The method of claim 25 in which a portion of said solution passes from said first branch tube directly to said set tubing.

28. The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of occluding flow

through said first branch tube at a first point between said second connector and said set tubing, to temporarily cause of all of said solution flow from said solution source to pass through said second connector, said patient connector, and then through said set tubing.

29. The method of claim 28 in which said second connector is carried by further branch tubing, which further branch tubing connects with the first tube in branching relation, further in which said tubular set has an end opposed to the patient connector, said opposed end being connected to a flow path leading to the vascular system of the patient, whereby, as blood is replaced by solution in said tubular set, said blood flows through said flow path back to the patient.

30. The method of claim 29 in which most of said flow of the solution passes through second connector and the patient connector.

31. The method of claim 29 in which a portion of said solution passes from said first branch directly to said set tubing.

32. The method of claim 23 in which said method follows a priming step in which the patient connector and the second connector are connected together to form a closed loop of tubing, a priming solution is passed from a solution source through said first branch tube, the second connector, and the patient connector, to fill them and the set tubing with said solution, followed by disconnecting the patient connector, and subsequent connection of the patient connector with the vascular system of a patient.

33. The method of claim 23 in which each of said connectors has a minimum flow-through bore diameter of at least about 2mm.

34. A method of extracorporeal blood treatment using a tubular set comprising set tubing having a patient connector on an end thereof for blood flow connection with a patient and a first branch tube branching from said set tubing for connection with a source of physiological solution, said first branch tube connecting with the set between ends thereof, said first branch tube communicating in branching relation with a second connector capable of sealing connection with said patient connector; said method comprising the steps of: connecting the patient connector to the vascular system of the patient while said tubular set is filled with said physiological solution; passing blood from the vascular system of the patient between an extracorporeal blood treatment device and the vascular system of the patient; thereafter disconnecting the patient connector from the vascular system of the patient; connecting the patient connector with the second connector to form a closed loop of tubing; and passing said physiological solution from said source into said set tubing with flow through said second connector and said patient connector, to replace blood in the said set tubing with said solution.

35. The method of claim 34 in which said tubular set has an end opposed to the patient connector, said opposed end being connected to a flow path leading to the vascular system of the patient, whereby, as blood is replaced by solution in